

THE CARRIER

Volume XLVI Number 8

www.mdarc.org

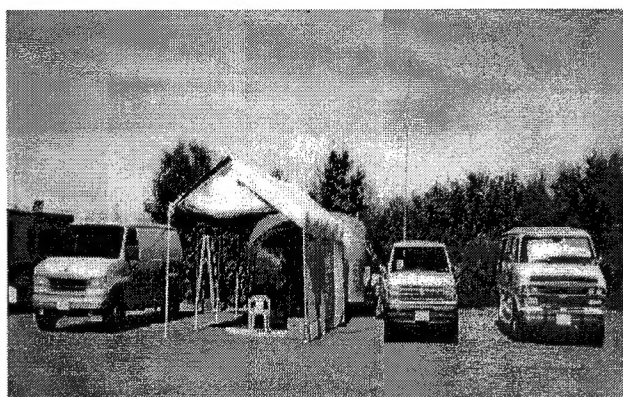
August 1999

MDARC

August Meeting Friday August 20 7:30 PM

The speaker will be
Steve Stearns, KF6OIK,
Chief Technologist
TRW Firestorm Wireless Products

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette CA



A perfect start to Field Day 1999

Field Day 1999

A quick pictorial look

Walt Moser, AB6GI, the Official Field Day Photographer in Perpetuity, supplied all of these glimpses of the event. We thank him for his really fine work. It looks like a great time was had by all.

Also check out the scoring form sent in by Lauren. Can you believe 118 contacts on 440? When all was said and done, we came in with a total of 6059 points. Thanks to all who participated.

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....stop knocking our Trailer...
it functions perfectly....

Magic of APRS

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

Write down in your calendar that the August meeting starts at the new time of 7:30. The business portion will end at 8:00 and the speaker will end by 9:00. The Door Prizes and the rest of the business meeting will be after the speaker.

APRS or Automatic Packet Reporting System is in one word "Magic". Every Tuesday night at 7:30 is APRS night on the MDARC 2 meter system. You can catch Howard Burk, KE6PTT, run the APRS net, but the real action is on the W6CX-3 digital side. Just set your frequency to 144.39 plug in your TNC (our equivalent to a modem) and run one of the various APRS programs.

APRSdos is the classic version that runs on DOS. MacAPRS is for Macintosh users and WinAPRS is for Windows users. After a few questions the APRS software opens your TNC and information starts to post on your screen. A few keystrokes later, you are able to send messages to any person on the screen. The default settings will allow you to talk locally, but you can set the system up to talk to anyone running APRS if all the conditions are right.

I would also like to thank Barry Winkler, KC6WYA. Barry kept the APRS flame burning for many years. He is also responsible for many of the APRS repeaters that we have today. Jim Tittle, KC6SOE, Jack Beck, KE6TIP, Ken Wise, KE6QNK, and Tim Barrett, K6BIV, have also spent time and money making this system first class.

My system KE6VTA is up all the time. If you leave me a message, I will respond eventually. I see the screen each morning and try to glance at it each evening. Just leave your system on and the reply will be there within 24 hours if I am in town.

As long as you have that computer running, how would you like to process some radio information for a good cause. Go to <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu> and download the software for either the PC or the MAC. Run the installer and your system will be part of the world's largest computing system. When your system is idle it will be analyzing radio signals from Outer Space. The results of your systems analysis will be sent back to the SETI at home project and more data will be automatically

sent to your computer. This allows the SETI at home project to use over 400,000 computer to process terabytes of data. You can have the screen saver show you the data it is running or have your screen blank out to save power. Just leave that computer on while you are away at work and let it crank out the numbers. It takes several days to process each segment of data. The software is set to not bother your normal use of the computer.

Last some QRM. Jim Wallace, WB6LQG will be giving up teaching the classes. I would like to thank Jim for years of great classes and many amateurs owe their ticket to Jim. If you are interested in teaching new amateurs, please drop me a line at 925 250-4743 or grestep@home.com.

73, Greg

Hey, Pacificon Committee

The Steering committee will meet as scheduled on August 14, Saturday. We begin the meeting at 8:00am sharp.

The GENERAL Pacificon meeting for everyone has been changed from **August 21 to August 28**, Saturday, starting 8:00am sharp.

This is because both Shrilly and I will be out of town on August 21. So, now you know, no excuses....see you on Aug. 28!!! Getting close to the big day. If you are having challenges let me know ASAP.

If you have expenses for Pacificon, bring receipts so you can be reimbursed.

73, Greg

August Speaker

Steve Stearns, KF6OIK, Chief Technologist for TRW Firestorm Wireless Products, topic will be 'The Mysteries of the Smith Chart, Transmission Lines and Matching'. (cont. page 7)



Ron on the Mast, what a beam



Our Lauren at his best

11.

fkh	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Power Output	QSOs	Power Output	QSOs	Power Output
160					35	100
80					631	100
40	77	100			256	100
20	243	100			167	100
15	303	100			162	125
10	3	125			32	50
6					202	50
2					33	50
Other					118	50
Other						

220
#40

69	CW QSOs		Digital QSOs	1796	Phone QSOs
—	Novice CW QSOs		Novice Digital QSOs		Novice Phone QSOs
69	Total CW QSOs		Total Digital QSOs	1796	Total Phone QSOs

38
36

ALSO HAD 1 BLINKER LIGHT
CONTACT WITH W6PW (CW)



....happy smiles...everybody had a grand time

MDARC General Meeting

Minutes, July 16, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Estep, KE6VTA, at 7:30 p.m. Visiting for the evening were Mike Falumie, WA6ZTY, from Albany, and Pat Griffin, WA6SCW, from Virginia (formerly from Albany). George, WB6OFH, reminded everyone that the picnic was tomorrow.

Sam, KO6JR, announced membership was at 400, with 213 members of RRRG. Sam noted that RACES members should have their pictures taken at the Main Jail.

Jim, N6BHX, noted that the 220 box worked, but the 440 antenna was down for work on ATV. Jim reported the VEs had given 14 elements to 6 candidates with the result of 5 new

or upgraded hams having passed 13 of the 14 elements.

Jeff, KF6EUM, announced public service events, calling attention to events on August 14 and 29 in particular.

Lauren, WA6CIE, noted Field Day had good results and was a lot of fun.

Greg reminded members Pacificon banquet tickets should be ordered from the flyer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. for further activities.

John Schulze, KF6MNL, presided over the drawing.

Mike Falumie, WA6ZTY, from the No. Cal. Packet Assn. spoke on packet radio.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

[illegible]

12 Store Buying Power!



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MDARC Board of Directors

Minutes, July 12, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Estep, KE6VTA, at 7:30 p.m. at Emil Villa's Restaurant, Concord. Other officers and directors present: Vice-President Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, Sect'y Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Treasurer Marie Lewis, KF6GLV, Directors Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, John Stuart, KM6QX, and Keith Lattin, N6PMF. Committee Chairmen present: RRRG, Jim Brunk, N6BHX and Tim Barrett, K6BIV, Social, George Roush, WB6OFH and Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT, Field Day, Lauren Styles, WA6CIE. Others present: Pacificon, Dick Schulze, AA6DL and Dave Gordon, N6SWE, RRRG, Howard Burk, KE6PTT and Jay Caldis, KT6Y. Also present was Jean Brunk, N6LGE.

Lauren, WA6CIE, noted that the logs for Field Day were about ready to go in. George, WB6OFH, and Tracey, KE6TOT, reminded the Board of the picnic. Greg noted that Jim Wallace, WB6LQG, has resigned from the education and testing position. Jim, N6BHX, will sit in as VE coordinator for this Friday's session. He has 6 or 7 VEs lined up. Jim brought up the new start time for the general meetings. The consensus of the Board was that the time would be revisited in October. Greg adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

DMARC Spring Trail Rides

Joe Gregory WA6DQN3

Concord - Mt. Diablo Spring

Trail ride: On Saturday, May 1, eight stalwart members of the MDARC turned out before sunrise at 6 in the morning to provide communications for the annual spring trail ride of the Concord-Mount Diablo Trail ride Association. Radio operators met at the CMDTRA Clubhouse on the north slope of the mountain a few miles SE of Clayton, put their radios into 4-wheel drive vehicles of the ride officials, checked the operating frequencies, and took off between 7 and 8 to the first check points. John, KM6QX, with the Open Trailmaster, led the procession. Drew, KD6GLY, accompanied the Novice Trailmaster; Joe, WA6DQN, was with the Ride Chair; Matt, KF6BUM and Pete, KE6ZIW, were with the veterinarians: Terry NM6Z and Dick, K6RHL, kept the Horsemanship judges in touch. Trevor, WA6JAU, followed the horse ambulance.

Unlike previous trail rides I have worked, this year's route went around rather than over the mountain (though there were several lower ridges to climb and cross). Lunch was at the Diablo Ranch. Except for a couple of horses that could not finish the ride, things went very well. Weather was beautiful, the spring flowers a bit past their best, and all were back to the clubhouse earlier than usual.

Moraga Horsemen's Association:

(Oakland Hills competitive Trail ride) The next horsemen's event was in the Oakland Hills, in Redwood and Anthony Chabot Regional Parks, on June 26. The ride camp was in Bort Meadow. The morning was cool but sunshine warmed the hills and valley by midday. Drew, KD6GLY, opened the base station well before 6 am. Mac, KE6ZZG, kept an eye on the horses crossing Redwood Road at the MacDonald staging area from 6 AM until about noon. Pete, KE6ZIW, was at the first vet check in Redwood Park from 7 am till early afternoon. Joe, WA6DQN, watched proceedings in Bort Meadow from about 8 am until the Finish Line was activated. Barry, K6ZA, was also in Bort Meadow where the second vet check and lunch break for the riders was held. John, KM6QX, provided communication from the southernmost point on the ride at the Family Camp in Chabot Park.

Riders seemed to regard this as an easy ride. Only one horse out of 132 starters failed to complete the event. After the last riders left the family camp check point, the radio was no longer of service and the last operators returned home in the late afternoon.

The International Arabian Horse Association will hold a Competitive Trail ride from Sunol Regional Wilderness to Mission Peak on August 14. In preparation for this event John, KM6QX, Tom, KO6RO, and Joe,

WA6DQN, accompanied Rita, the Ride Director, and 10 riders in 2 groups, on a preride trail reconnaissance on Sunday, July 11. The gate to Sunol Wilderness Park was still locked when we arrived at 7 in the morning (signs proclaimed 7 am as opening time). In a few minutes Rita appeared with keys and we continued to the ride camp location and planned the days action.

Tom scouted auto routes to the lunch stop and vet check point in Milpitas. John used his satellite position indicator to map the trail. Joe kept Rita in touch with the others from various points in the Mission Peak - Monument Peak grasslands. From the ridge we could see much of the southern bay sprawl thru haze. Weather was hot, but there was breeze on the ridge top.

Other trail rides this summer and fall that have asked for radio support are the Las Trampas Endurance Ride which will be held in Anthony Chabot Park (Bort Meadow base) in the Oakland Hills on Saturday, September 18, and the Diablo Vista Endurance Ride on Mt. Diablo (from Tassajara) on October 30.

73, Joe

Membership Report

Sam Lipson, KO6JR – Membership Chair

Please make note of the following changes to the roster as well as welcoming out new members. Please forward changes in membership information to Sam, KO6JR.

The following changes and new members are for the month of July, 1999.

Name, Call, License Class; Spouse Name & Call		* = Rocky Ridge Supporter
Address,	Phone numbers,	e-mail
* Bonar, Bruce R. KF6QBF (T+);		brbonar@wenet.net
3620 Brittan Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070 (w) 415-468-5000x3009 (New Address)		
* Cannon, Stuart Q.(Stu) KE6OFD (T); Sue		scannon@pacbell.ent
462 W 600 N, Alpine, UT 84004 (h) 925-930-0411 (fax) 925-935-3053 (New Address)		
* Jones, Ken KF6SIH (T+); Nyasha KF6SIG		bear@value.net
207 Bernauer, Pittsburg, CA 94565 (h) 925-432-8409 (fax) 925-432-8409 (New Member)		
* Jones, Nyasha KF6SIG (T); Ken KF6SIH		ursal@value.net
207 Bernauer, Pittsburg, CA 94565 (h) 925-432-8409 (fax) 925-432-8409 (New Member)		
* Lipson, Samuel E. KO6JR (E); Sabiha		ko6jr@arrl.net
2047 Olympic Dr., Martinez, CA 94553 (h) 925-229-5705 (w) 510-669-4096 (fax) 925-229-5737 (New e-mail)		
Merryman, Wayne WB6WZV (A); Joan		wmerryma@home.com
811 Topper Ln, Lafayette, CA 94549 (h) 925-283-0659 (New e-mail)		
Norris, Nancy KC1WT (E);		
3555 East View Dr, Lafayette, CA 94549 (h) 925-253-1854 (fax) 925-253-1251 (New Address)		
* Straus, Jeffrey(Jeff) KE6J (E); Eileen KF6FNX		jstraus@viking.dvc.edu
145 Cafeto Ct, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (h) 925-933-9484 (New e-mail)		

Speaker (cont.from page 2)

Steve started in ham radio while in high school and at the height of the Heathkit era. He has held Novice, Technician, and 1st Class Radiotelephone licenses. He studied electrical engineering at Cal State University Fullerton, the University of Southern California, and Stanford, specializing in electromagnetics, communication engineering and signal processing. He is presently Chief Technologist at TRW Firestorm Wireless Communication Products in Sunnyvale, where he is leading the development of smart antenna technology for the cellular and wireless

industries. Steve has over 30 professional publications, one patent pending, and has received numerous awards.

Sounds like it's going to be an outstanding evening.

Mike, KE6JGA

For Sale ZR-3 Antenna, made by Force 12

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 20	7:30 PM MDARC General Meeting		
August 21	8:00 AM PACIFICON General Meeting	Emil Villa's	Concord
September 6	7:30 PM MDARC Board	Emil Villa's	Concord
September 17	7:30 PM MDARC General Meeting		
September 18	8:00 AM PACIFICON General Meeting	Emil Villa's	Concord

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
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